

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 01751 250956Z

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 EB-11 RSR-01 RSC-01 /039 W

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R 250944Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4803

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 1751

FOR COMMERCE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BFOL, ETRD, GE, CZ, HU, US

SUBJECT: GENERAL MOTORS AND EASTERN EUROPE

REF: STATE 145225

WE BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE WELL TO EMPHASIZE TO GENERAL MOTORS, FOR THEIR PLANNING PURPOSES, THAT IT SEEMS PROBABLE THAT GDR, CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND HUNGARY WILL PUSH THEIR JOINT PASSENGER-CAR PROJECT TO COMPLETION DESPITE PROBLEMS THEY FACE. TO SCRAP PROJECT WOULD SERIOUSLY DAMAGE REGIMES, PRESTIGE AND WHOLE THEME OF INTER-CEMA COOPERATION. FURTHERMORE, AT LEAST IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA THERE IS DOMESTIC POLITICAL PRESSURE, FROM SLOVAKS, IN FAVOR OF PROJECT. AS WE MENTIONED TO MESSRS. SMITH AND STRUPP DURING THEIR PRAGUE VISIT, SLOVAKS HAD ORIGINALLY PUSHED FOR A NEW, TOTALLY SLOVAK-MADE CAR, AND WERE ONLY DISSUADED BY AGREEMENT FOR SLOVAK INDUSTRY TO PARTICIPATE IN JOINT PROJECT.

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